



NOAA - National Weather Service

Tampa Bay Area

2525 14th Avenue SE, Ruskin, Florida 33570

813-645-2323

<http://weather.gov/tampa>

Weather-Ready Nation Tampa Bay Pilot Project Launch

As part of its Weather-Ready Nation initiative, the National Weather Service launched its Tampa Bay Pilot Project Tuesday morning, which will provide enhanced decision support services related to ecological and environmental hazards to help protect residents and visitors in the Tampa Bay area.

The mission of the Tampa Bay Area Pilot project includes:

- Exploring additional services that promote healthy ecosystems and environmental sustainability efforts
- Collaborating with multi-agency partners to identify service requirements and engage opportunities for research and new service implementation
- Leading initiatives in environmental decision and ecological support activities while assisting in the development and implementation of services on a multi-agency level

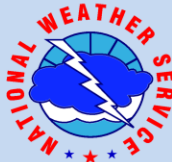
The Weather-Ready Nation project will take weather support services beyond the traditional domain of the National Weather Service and address impacts that cross both ecological and economic boundaries. In order to accomplish the above mission, three Emergency Response Specialists have been assigned to the National Weather Service office in Ruskin. Initial projects that the team will work on include developing a Marine Route Forecast, enhancing current Harmful Algal Bloom forecasts, improving the local provision of storm surge warning information, and developing graphical smoke plume and visibility hazard forecasts.

The Tampa Bay Weather-Ready Nation Pilot will also bridge the strength of NOAA's Line Offices and core partners to better identify mutual risk and vulnerability across the Tampa Bay region related to weather, environmental, and ecological impacts. The Pilot effort has already begun collaborating with NOAA line offices such as National Marine Fisheries Service, National Ocean Service, and the Office of Response and Restoration, as well as core partners in Emergency Management and from the Tampa Port Authority and Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota, FL.

"These collaborations and new products will serve to mitigate future risk and impact from hurricane storm surge, environmental and ecological effects in the Gulf of Mexico, and provide safety and high-impact weather information for marine navigation through the Port," said Brian LaMarre, Meteorologist-In-Charge of the Tampa forecast office.

Bill Proenza, Director of the National Weather Service Southern Region stated "A Weather-Ready Nation avoids having to learn from tragedy".

Some pictures from this launch are below.



NOAA - National Weather Service

Tampa Bay Area

2525 14th Avenue SE, Ruskin, Florida 33570

813-645-2323

<http://weather.gov/tampa>



NWS Tampa representatives from left: Brian LaMarre, Todd Barron, Mike Gittinger, Rick Davis, Dan Noah, Karen Brown, and Charlie Paxton



NWS Southern Region Director Bill Proenza speaks on the importance of the Pilot and Weather-Ready Nation



Meteorologist-In-Charge Brian LaMarre introduces the Pilot



NWS Southern Region Director Bill Proenza



Meteorologist-In-Charge Brian LaMarre



NWS Headquarters Advisor for Science and Service Integration, Chris Strager



NOAA - National Weather Service

Tampa Bay Area

2525 14th Avenue SE, Ruskin, Florida 33570

813-645-2323

<http://weather.gov/tampa>



About 75 people attended the Launch



Chris Strager being interviewed



NOAA Fisheries Service Southeast Region Deputy Administrator,
Miles Croom



Bill Proenza being interviewed



NOAA National Ocean Service Gulf Coast Service Center Director,
Todd Davison



Brian LaMarre being interviewed



After the Press Conference